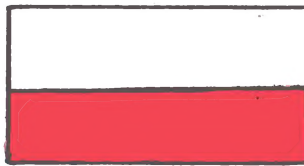




**8/7th Battalion  
Royal Victoria Regiment**



UNIT BRIEF

8/7 RVR

1FEB89

BRIEF ON THE 8TH 7TH BATTALION  
THE ROYAL VICTORIA REGIMENT

Background

1. The 8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment, (8/7 RVR), encompasses the area bounded by Mildura, Portland, Bacchus Marsh and Echuca. The Battalion Headquarters is located at Curtis Street in Ballarat, 113 km west of Melbourne. Sub units are located at Shepparton, and Echuca, Russell Street in Ballarat, and Bacchus Marsh, Mildura and Swan Hill, Warrnambool, Portland, Hamilton and Maryborough.

2. The units history dates back to the 23rd October 1857 when a meeting of the citizens of Ballarat was convened 'to consider the possibility of establishing a rifle corps in the district'. Representations were made to the Government of the colony of Victoria and assent was received for the enrollment of a corps on the 21st July 1858. The first parade of the new unit was held on the 9th August 1858.

3. The Battalion has existed since that date with an uninterrupted history, although under a variety of titles. The Battalion also has links to the past through the sub-units located at Shepparton and Mildura. These companies can trace a lineage the 59th Battalion (The Hume Regiment) and the 7th Battalion (The North West Murray Borderers). A detailed Battalion history is attached as Annex A.

Role

4. The role of the Battalion is to seek out and close with the Enemy, to kill or capture him, to seize and hold ground, and to repel attack by day or night regardless of season weather or terrain.

Task

5. The task of the Battalion is, as part of the 3rd Division, to defend vital assets in the North of Australia.

Key Personnel

6. The Commanding Officer of 8/7 RVR is Lieutenant Colonel D J Ball, RFD.

7. Other key personnel are listed in Annex B.

ARA Staff

8. The Battalion is supported by 19 Regular Army Personnel.

c. World War II

- (1) Bardia 1941
- (2) Capture of Tobruk
- (3) El Alamein
- (4) Greece 1941
- (5) South West Pacific 1942 - 1945
- (6) Bobdubi
- (7) Lae-Nadzab
- (8) Finisterres
- (9) Hari River, and
- (10) Borneo

Freedom of Cities

14. The 2nd Battalion was granted the freedom of entry to the City of Maryborough in that city on the 30th August 1980.

15. The Battalion was granted the freedom of entry to the City of Ballarat at a parade in the city on the 26th November 1983. The freedom was exercised on the same day.

16. The 8/7th Battalion was granted the freedom of the City of Swan Hill on the 17th September 1988. The freedom was exercised on the same day.

17. The Battalion will be granted the freedom of entry to the City of Echuca in late October 1989.

Achievements

18. In the past years, the Battalion has achieved a high standard of training by its members. Each training year sees the Battalion's members attend a weekly night parade, around one weekend per month and an annual camp.

19. Annual camps have been conducted in such areas as Canungra (QLD), Eildon and Puckapunyal (VIC) and New Zealand.

20. In 1988, when a company from the Battalion was training in New Zealand, the Battalion played host to a New Zealand Reserve Infantry Company during the annual camp at Puckapunyal.

21. Some of the other activities undertaken by members of the Battalion have been;

- Exercise Long Look - 4 months U.K.
- Exercise Tropic Lighting - 19 days Hawaii
- Exercise Pacific Exchange - 16 days Hawaii

### The Royal Victoria Regiment

9. On the 1st July 1960 The Royal Victorian Regiment was formed from the existing Infantry CMF units. The Battalion maintained sub-units in the following areas:

2 RVR HQ ADMIN COY	- Sandringham
A/B COY	- Ballan and Maryborough
B Coy	- Bendigo, Kyneton, Castlemaine, Kerang
C Coy	- Mildura, Red Cliffs.

10. On the 3rd May 1965, a further re-organization took place whereby 2 RVR was relocated as shown:

2 RVR HQ	- Ballarat
C Coy	- 1 independent Rifle Coy, Mildura
B Coy	- Ballarat

11. The Battalion has increased the number of companies since 1965 and the current organization is shown at Annex C. The Battalion was retitled 8/7th Battalion on the 14 Nov 87.

### Depot Locations

12. The current locations of 8/7 RVR depots is contained at Annex C.

### Battle Honours

13. The unit colours bear the following battle honours:

- a. Boer War South Africa 1899 - 1902
- b. World War I
  - (1) Somme 1916 - 1918
  - (2) Pozieres
  - (3) Bulle court
  - (4) Ypres 1917
  - (5) Polygon Wood
  - (6) Amiens
  - (7) Albert 1918
  - (8) Mont St Quentin
  - (9) Hindenbyrg Line, and
  - (10) Landing at ANZAC

22. Outside training, the Battalion has achieved much in the way of improving its depots, the majority by self help, including:

Building Obstacle Courses within Depot confines,  
Building recreational facilities,  
provision of Commander phone system (25 Stations)  
Purchase of a Computer.

#### Community Involvement

23. Throughout the state the Battalion has many community assistance tasks including 45 Guards provided on ANZAC day, Australia Day Guards, Assistance to Charities and Community service tasks.

24. Ranger Museum The Ranger Museum, Ballarat, was officially opened by the Hon K.C. Beazley MRA Minister for Defence on 28 July 1989. The Museum contains a well designed history of the Battalion dating all the way to the 'Rangers' early days. The Museum Curator is Captain Bill Akell and visits can be co-ordinated by contacting him at BHQ.

#### KANGAROO 1989

25. In 1989 the Battalion's major task is its involvement in Exercise Kangaroo '89, an Army wide exercise based on the defence of vital assets in Northern Australia. This Exercise is designed to test the Battalions ability to deploy to a remote region and conduct low level operations. Kangaroo 89 is the largest Defence exercise held in mainland Australia since World War II. It will involve over 22000 personal from Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America.

26. The Battalions area of operations will revolve around the defence of the RAAF base Tindal. This will include vital Asset protection of Radar, Navigation Aids, Control towers and 75 Sqn Assests.

D. J. BALL

Lieutenant Colonel  
Commanding Officer

#### Annexes:

- A. History of the 8/7th Battalion
- B. 8/7 RVR Key Personnel.
- C. Battalion Organization and Locations.

8/7 RVR

HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY IN COUNTRY VICTORIA

BALLARAT - A BRIEF EARLY HISTORY

Ballarat was first settled in 1838 as a pastoral area. The area was named after the "Ballaarat Tribe" a local aboriginal tribe. The pastoral calm of the district was shattered in 1851 when gold was discovered, first at Clunes and Bunninyong, then at Poverty Point near the present Sovereign Hill.

A dramatic rush of 20,000 "diggers" from all over the world followed, increasing Ballarat's population to 40,000 by 1854 and draining manpower from the old established settlements of Sydney and Melbourne.

This drastic rise in population created tremendous social and economic problems for both the Government and the miners and their families. Life on the digging's was physically hard and uncomfortable but the abundance of gold created very lucrative business opportunities for both entertainment and commercial enterprise. The cost of living was high but the standard very low. All these factors created huge administrative problems for the local and state government.

In an attempt to reduce the local population the authorities introduced exorbitant fees for miners licences hoping to force people away from the diggings and out of Ballarat.

The miners however stood fast and under the leadership of a miner named Peter Lalor, rebelled against the authorities. The rebellion was sparked by the trial of a local Publican who had been charged with the murder of one of the miners. The trial was fixed by the local authorities, the publican being in their confidence, and the publican acquitted. The miners burnt his Hotel to the ground in protest. Peter Lalor then orchestrated a retrial and the publican was found guilty. Tension continued to build however, and the miners began burning their miners licences. Steep penalties were then imposed on those miners found without licences.

The unlicensed miners then rallied and built a stockade. They adopted the Southern Cross as their flag and vowed to stand united against authorities; they numbered in excess of 1500. However, on Sunday the 2 December 1854, when only 120 "diggers" were present at the stockade, the miners were attacked by soldiers and police. Outnumbered 3 to 1 the miners suffered heavy losses. Peter Lalor was badly wounded but managed to escape capture. He later lost an arm through amputation. Many of the miners were arrested and sent to trial in Melbourne. From hiding Lalor wrote to the Melbourne newspapers about the plight of the miners and the unjust conditions being imposed by the Government. The public reaction was such that the Government was forced to acquit all those miners in custody and great reforms were instituted. Peter Lalor went on to become a State politician. After the Eureka incident, troops were stationed in Ballarat up to 1857 as a precautionary measure.

During this period England had declared war on Russia and had sent an expeditionary force to the Crimea. On cessation of hostilities in 1856 the fear of Russian expansionism prompted the raising of volunteer military units to aid in the defence of Australia.

The Ballarat Volunteer Rifle Regiment was thus formed in 1858, and the 8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment, its direct descendant still occupies the Regiment's original depot in Ballarat.

## 8/7 RVR - EVOLUTION

8/7 RVR (formerly 2 RVR) despite many name changes has had an almost uninterrupted history since 1858. The Battalion occupies depots throughout the Western half of Victoria. The decision to retitle the battalion was made for historical reasons, in order to re-establish links with the battalions predecessors.

Between 1858 and 1914 the battalion existed under a variety of names. In the Ballarat area these consisted of:

1858	Ballarat Volunteer Rifle Regiment Ballarat Volunteer Rangers
1884	3rd Ballarat Battalion Infantry (Militia) 3rd Ballarat Battalion Victoria Rifles
1892	1st Battalion 3rd Victorian Regiment
1898	3rd Battalion Victoria Infantry Brigade
1901	3rd Battalion Infantry Brigade
1908	1st Battalion 7th Australian Infantry Regiment
1912	70th/71st Battalion (City of Ballaarat Regiment)

Further North towards the Murray River the following evolution was taking place. (Encompassing Bendigo/Castlemaine and Murray River).

1858	Bendigo Rifle Regiment (disbanded)
1860	Bendigo Volunteer Rifle Corps
1870	Castlemaine Corps of Rifles
1872	Mount Alexander Battalion Rifles
1883	4th Battalion Infantry
1887	4th or Mount Alexander Battalion of Victorian Rifles
1893	3rd Victorian Regiment, 2nd Battalion (first link with Ballarat).
1898	4th Battalion, Militia Infantry Brigade
1903	8th Australian Infantry Regiment
1908	8th Australian Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion.
1912	66th (Mount Alexander) Infantry

The 1914-18 War. When War broke out in 1914 and the AIF was raised for active service, two famous Infantry battalions were created, predominantly from the north and western country Victorian area. The 8th Bn AIF recruited mainly from the Ballarat/Ararat areas and the 7th Bn AIF from the North Western and Murray River areas. Both battalions became well known and respected for their participation at Gallipoli and later in France. The Battle Honours awarded these two battalions bear testimony to their involvement.

8th Battalion	7th Battalion
South Africa 1900-1902	Pozieres
Pozieres	Bullecourt
Bullecourt	Ypres 1917
Ypres 1917	Menin Road
Menin Road	Lys
Lys	Hazelbrouck
Hazelbrouck	Amiens
Amiens	Hindenburg Line
Hindenburg Line	Krithia
Krithia	Landing at Anzac
Landing at Anzac	

Between the Wars. After the 1st World War the AIF was disbanded and militia units absorbed the honours of the AIF battalions. Further restructuring occurred. In the Ballarat area:

1918	2/8th Battalion (Ballarat Regiment)
	2/39th Infantry Regiment (City of Ballaarat Regiment)
1921	8 Battalion, City of Ballaarat Regiment, AIF
1939	2/8th Battalion, AIF

To the North and along the Murray River:

1918	66th Infantry
1918	2nd/7th Infantry Regiment (Mount Alexander Regiment)
1921	7th Battalion
1929	7th Battalion (Mount Alexander Regiment)
1929	38th/7th Battalion (having linked with the 38th Battalion)
1937	7th Battalion (North West Murray Borderers). Taking in Mildura, Wentworth, Red Cliffs and Merbein.

World War Two. Again on the outbreak of War the 2nd AIF was raised and so too were the 8th and 7th Battalions. Again both battalions served together and in areas such as:

North Africa 1940-41  
 Bardia  
 Capture of Tobruk  
 Derna  
 Greece 1941  
 Crete  
 Canea  
 42nd Street  
 South West Pacific  
 Liberation of Australian New Guinea

1946-60. In 1946 the 8th and 7th Battalions were amalgamated to form the 8th/7th Battalion, The North Western Victoria Regiment. The battalion existed under this name until July 1960.

The RVR. In July 1960 the Military Forces were formed into Pentropic divisions and Victoria was allotted two battalions under this new system. The Regiments were granted the prefix Royal and the Second Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment was formed.

2 RVR underwent many changes to its establishment and area of responsibility, between 1960-87. The Headquarters moved from Sandringham to Ballarat. It lost depots at:

Bendigo	Deniliquin	Toolern Vale
Castlemaine	Redcliffs	
Kyneton	Cobram	
Kerang	Geelong	

In 1965 the Pentropic Division was changed for a Three Task Force Division. At this time 2 RVR was located at only Ballarat and Mildura. By 1979 however the battalion had again increased to 14 depots and at present there are 11.



On 14 Nov 87 the battalion was officially retitled the 8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment. It has adopted the White (8 Bn) and Brown (7 Bn) lanyard and is wearing the 8th Bn colour patch, (rectangular white over red). It is anticipated that strong links will be established through the associations of the 8th and 7th Battalions AIF, who are still very active in membership.

ANNEX B TO  
8/7 RVR UNIT BRIEF  
DATED 22 FEB 89

KEY PERSONNEL

The following are the key appointments of 8/7 RVR;

a.	Lieutenant Colonel D.J. Ball, RFD	CO
b.	Major N.R. Leckie	BN 2IC (ARES on FTS)
c.	Major W.A. Wallace	OPSO
d.	Captain M.L. Elliott	ADJT*
e.	Captain W.A. Akell	QM*
f.	Warrant Officer Class One W.J. Payne	RSM*
g.	Warrant Officer Class Two G. Hallam	RQMS*
h.	Warrant Officer Class Two P. Adamis	Chief Clk*
i.	Captain D. Scott	OC A Coy
j.	Captain E.W. Boucher	OC B Coy
k.	Captain G. Wescombe	OC C Coy
l.	Captain P.L. Keen	OC SPT Coy
m.	Captain G.J. Smith	OC Admin Coy

\*REGULAR ARMY COMPONENT

SERVICE RESUME  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
D.J. BALL RFD

LTCOL Ball was educated at Geelong Grammar school, where he was in the band of the school cadets. Upon leaving school he worked on the family property at Lexton until being called up for National Service in 1970. Upon his discharge, he married and moved to Raglan where he currently produces super fine merino wool. LTCOL Ball is the fifth generation to farm at 'Wirranee Park', Raglan.

Service History

JAN 70 - JAN 73	National Service 21 Const Sqn
FEB 72 - OCT 73	OFFR CDT OCTU
OCT 73	Commissioned
OCT 73 - DEC 76	PL Comd - Maryborough
JAN 77 - JUN 78	OC Admin Coy
JUL 78 - DEC 78	2IC B Coy
JAN 79 - DEC 81	OC B coy
JAN 82 - JUN 82	OPSO
JUL 82 - JUN 83	RCSC Intd CSE
JUL 83 - DEC 86	OPSO
JAN 87 - DEC 87	RCSC Snr CSE
JAN 88	CO 8/7 RVR

Personal details

Christian Name;	Douglas John
Preferred Name;	Douglas
DOB;	3 Jan 49
Place;	Beaufort
Wife's Name;	Pauline
Children;	Romaine - 13 yrs
	Chandra - 11 yrs

Interests

Involvement in the community includes President of the Raglan Fire Brigade group. Communications Officer for the Ripon Group, Chairman of Parish Council, Landowner representative on the Land Protection Advisory Committee - Ballarat Region, Church Organist, member of Executive, Beaufort Ambulance Auxiliary.

B-3  
SERVICE RESUME  
BATTALION SECOND IN COMMAND  
MAJOR N.R. LECKIE

Educated at East Coburg State school and Preston Technical school. Continued education at Preston College studying Diploma of Electrical Engineering. Worked with semi Government Authorities and in private industry in Electrical engineering from 1967 to 1975. Commenced teaching in 1976 at RMIT in Certificate of Technology - Electrical. Trained Technician Instructors Certificate gained in 1977. Transferred to School of Mines, Ballarat in 1981 into Certificate of Technology - Electrical and Electronics.

Service History

FEB 68 - FEB 70	National Service. Offr trg Scheyville Posting to 1 RTB - P1 Comd
FEB 70 - JUL 75	22 RVR - P1 Comd/RSO
MAY 79 - APR 81	OR TRG WNG INSTR
APR 81 - DEC 81	2 RVR COY 2IC
JAN 82 - NOV 87	2 RVR OC B COY
JUL 83 - JUN 84	RCSC INTER
NOV 87 - DEC 88	OPSO 8/7 RVR
JAN 89 -	BN 2IC (FTS)

Personal Details

Christian Names;	Neil Robert
Preferred Name;	Neil
DOB;	23 Sep 46
Place;	Richmond, MELB
Wife's Name;	Kaye
Children	Cameron 12 yrs Andrea 11 yrs
<u>Interests</u>	200 acre Merino Sheep Farm Basketball Tennis

B-4

SERVICE RESUME  
BATTALION ADJUTANT  
CAPTAIN M.L. ELLIOTT

Captain Elliott was educated at St Francis Xavier College and St Patrick's College. Upon completion of his HSC he enlisted in the Australian Regular Army.

Service History

JAN 81 - DEC 81	OCS PORTSEA
JAN 82 - JUN 84	2/4 RAR -P1 Comd
JUL 84 - JUN 85	INFANTRY CENTRE - P1 Comd IET P1
JUL 85 - DEC 86	HQ DSG NO - SO3 OPERATIONS
JAN 87 - DEC 88	1 RAR - coy 2IC
JAN 89	ADJT 8/7 RVR

Personal Details

Christian Names;	Mark Lawrence
Preferred Name;	Mark
DOB;	13 Jun 62
Place;	Ballarat
Wife's Name;	Cynthia
Children;	None
Interests;	Rugby
	Volleyball
	Diving
	Triathlons

B-5

SERVICE RESUME  
REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR  
WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE W.J. PAYNE

W01 Payne was educated at Casino Marist brothers. Upon leaving school he enlisted into the Australian Regular Army.

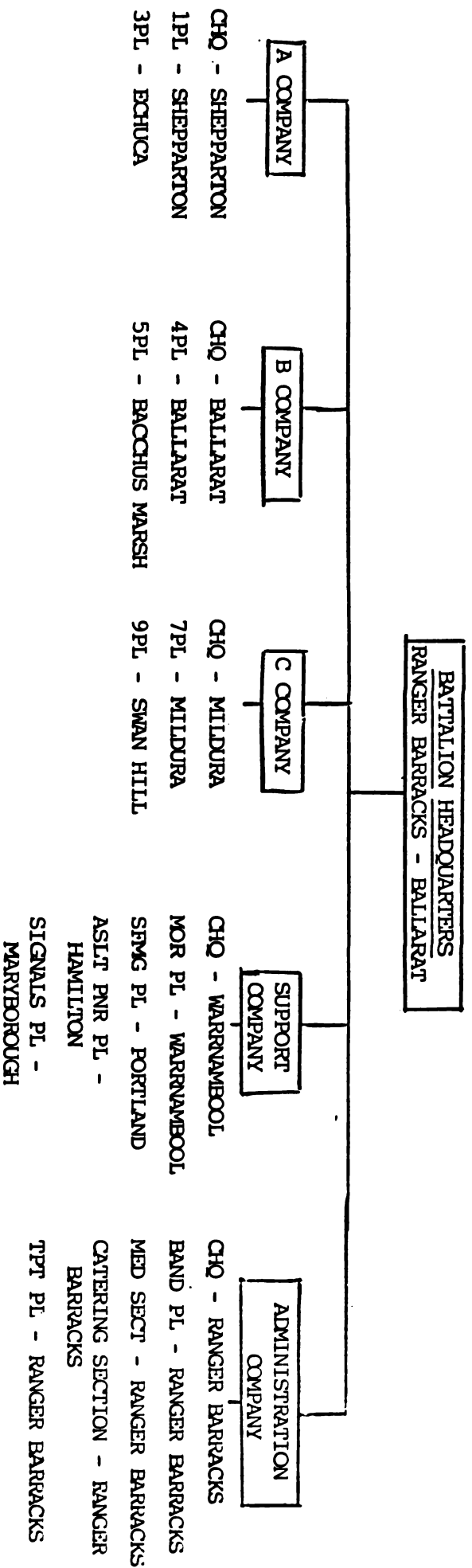
Service History

OCT 70 - APR 71	Recruit and IET Trg
MAY 71 - MAR 80	1 RAR
AUG 81 - MAY 83	DSU Townsville
MAY 83 - APR 85	Land Warfare Centre
APR 85 - JUN 88	HQ I DIV
JUN 88	8/7 RVR

Personal Details

Christian Names;	Warren James
Preferred Name;	Warren
DOB;	7 MAR 53
Place;	Lismore, NSW
Wife's Name;	Linda
Children;	Melanie 13yrs Mathew 9yrs
Interests;	Cricket Rugby Camping

CURRENT BATTALION ORGANIZATION  
8/7 RVR



DEPOT LOCATIONS

BALLARAT  
BHQ

- Ranger Barracks  
 Curtis Street  
 BALLARAT VIC 3350  
 (053) 333190

B COY

- Russell Street  
 BALLARAT VIC 3350  
 (053) 317557

SHEPPARTON

- Somme Barracks  
 Sobroan Street  
 SHEPPARTON VIC 3630  
 (058) 219143

ECHUCA  
PL A COY

- Bobdubi Barracks  
 Ogilvie Avenue  
 ECHUCA VIC 3625  
 (054) 821616

SWAN HILL  
PL A COY

- Messines Barracks  
 Gray Street  
 SWAN HILL VIC 3585  
 (050) 324826

MARYBOROUGH

- Goldsmith Street  
 MARYBOROUGH VIC 3465  
 (054) 612104

BACCHUS MARSH (RSL HALL)  
PL B COY

- RSL Hall  
 Main Street  
 BACCHUS MARSH VIC 3340  
 (053) 671424

MILDURA  
HQ C COY

- Kiarivu Barracks  
 San Mateo Avenue  
 MILDURA VIC 3500  
 (050) 231272

WARRNAMBOOL  
HQ SPT COY

- Pertobe Road  
 WARRNAMBOOL VIC 3280  
 (05) 622781

HAMILTON  
ASLT PNR PL

- Milton Street  
 HAMILTON VIC 3300  
 (055) 724380

PORTLAND  
SFMG PL

- Darts Road  
 PORTLAND VIC 3305  
 (055) 233794